

## **AMORY CURRENT LAKE BIOASSESSMENT**

**MARCH 2015**

Greetings Lake Amory Residents!

Please find the latest bioassessment report for your lake below. Our next lake inspection is scheduled for **April 21<sup>st</sup>**, weather permitting. Key highlights of this update include:

- Algae bloom
- Hydrilla status
- Herbicide treatment status for each section of the lake
- Continued encouragement to plant native aquatic plants along your shoreline
- **Factsheet attached: Aquatic Plant of the Month- Bladderwort (may or may not exist in your waterbody)**
- Recommendations for you and your lake

### **Observations:**

On **March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015**, Seminole County Lake Management Program biologist, Thomas Calhoun, and Student Intern, Henry Lopez, surveyed the aquatic plants in Lake Amory.

All areas of the lake were accessible. No hydrilla was found during this inspection. Hydrilla will be closely monitored over the next few months.

**Cactus Canal** and **Outfall Canal** were found to be in good condition. Submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) observed in the cove included roadgrass and bladderwort. Invasive emergent vegetation included: alligator weed, elephant ear, dog fennel, and torpedo grass.

**Photo: Outfall and grass carp barrier found in good shape.**



The **Bird Island** area was found over grown with dog fennel, alligatorweed, prim-rose willow and torpedo grass. This area was targeted during the last treatment. Native vegetation such as duck potato, pickerelweed, native sedges, smartweed, roadgrass, spike rush, and bulrush had expanded in this area.

**Photo: Overgrowth in the island area.**



**The Cove** was found to be in great shape again! Native emergent vegetation was doing well and minimal invasive vegetation was found. Invasive torpedo grass and alligator weed were targeted in this area for herbicide treatment.

**Photo: Patch of torpedo grass found in The Cove area.**





**Photo: Canna expanding in The Cove.**



The **Lake Proper** area was found to be in good condition as well. The access corridors were open and accessible. Alligator weed and torpedo grass were targeted during the treatment.

**Photo: duck potato and pickerelweed stand.**



The secchi reading (water clarity) at the time of inspection was 3.9 ft in a total depth of 14.4 ft. The grass carp barrier was found in good condition. No triploid (sterile) grass carp fish were observed during the inspection. Water elevation at the time of inspection was 40.3 ft above sea level.

### **Lake Recommendations:**

- 1- Work together or establish a lake association with other lakefront owners. Have at least one annual lake association meeting, invite guest speakers (such as county or state biologists) and discuss lake specific issues, especially lake management recommendations. Seminole County Lake Management staff would be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys to the community. Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program at (407) 665-2439 with questions or to schedule a meeting.
- 2- Increase native aquatic plantings along shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna). Native shoreline plants help absorb nutrients from rainfall/run-off, thereby improving habitat and water quality, and reducing shoreline erosion of sediments/organic matter into the lake. Without management, this erosion and sedimentation will fill the lake over time, creating a wetland-type of environment. Planting native species now can assist in slowing this process (formally known as eutrophication). In addition, native plantings can reduce your herbicide costs/needs, thereby providing a savings to you!
- 3- Utilize the valuable educational outreach programs that are available, such as Shoreline Restoration Workshops, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) interactive presentations, and Lake Management Video mail-outs. Implement a media campaign within the community about reducing personal pollution by: decreasing overall fertilizer usage, using only phosphorous-free and slow-release nitrogen fertilizers, keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and keeping grass clippings out of your lake and the stormdrains that lead to the lakes. All of these activities aid in protecting your lake! Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program (407) 665-2439 for more information regarding the free educational programs available.
- 4- Help spread the word! Obtain email addresses from neighbors not currently on the distribution list in order to share this information with others. Valuable information is contained within these reports

Have a great day,

**Thomas Calhoun**

**Lake Management Coordinator**

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**Seminole Education, Restoration & Volunteer (SERV) Program**